

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for the commercial production of green Cicer beans, wherein the method comprises:

selecting acreage based on relative risk of caramelization for a crop of Cicer beans;

planting Cicer beans in the selected acreage;

monitoring growing degree days of the selected acreage after planting by calculating a daily growing degree value; and

harvesting said Cicer beans when said growing degree days reach a predetermined an accumulated value between 70 and 110.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said daily growing degree value is calculated by subtracting fifty from an average of a series of daily temperature values, wherein said daily growing degree value is modified to equal zero when said average is less than or equal to fifty, and wherein said daily growing degree value is further modified to equal thirty-six when said average is greater than or equal to eighty-six.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1, wherein said relative risk of caramelization is determined using geographical data.

5. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 4, wherein said geographical data includes distance of a parcel of Cicer beans away from 45° latitude north or south.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said relative risk of caramelization is determined using micro climate data.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6, wherein said micro climate data comprises slope, aspect, and elevation.

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8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said relative risk of caramelization is determined using macro climate data.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 8, wherein said macro climate data comprises historical climate information and predictions using global ocean surface temperatures.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of applying a fertilizer to said Cicer beans to maintain a green color.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 10, wherein said fertilizer has a base composition of phosphate, nitrogen, sulfur, or potash.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising selecting a Cicer variety that produces an upright plant, suitable for mechanical harvesting.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said Cicer beans are Kabuli-types, grown in dry land acreage, and said Cicer beans are planted in a multiplicity of rows wherein each row is spaced between 4 and 48 inches from the nearest adjacent row.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said Cicer beans are Kabuli-types, grown in irrigated acreage, and said Cicer beans are planted in a multiplicity of rows wherein each row is spaced between 4 and 48 inches from the nearest adjacent row.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said Cicer beans are Desi-types, grown in dry land acreage, and said Cicer beans are planted in a multiplicity of rows wherein each row is spaced between 4 and 48 inches from the nearest adjacent row.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said Cicer beans are Desi-types, grown in irrigated acreage, and said Cicer beans are planted in a multiplicity of rows wherein each row is spaced between 4 and 48 inches from the nearest adjacent row.

17. (Withdrawn) A method for scheduling planting times of a Cicer bean crop for the commercial production of green Cicer beans wherein the method comprises:

determining green Cicer bean processing capacity of a processing plant;

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predicting the time required for each of a plurality of green Cicer bean growing parcels to reach a predetermined growing degree day accumulated value;

predicting average daily yield ready for processing using said predicted time required for each of said plurality of green Cicer bean growing parcels to reach said predetermined growing degree day accumulated value; and

scheduling planting times for each of said plurality of green Cicer bean growing parcels such that said predicted average daily yield ready for processing does not substantially exceed a predetermined processing capacity.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17 further comprising the step of determining a time in transit from a predetermined location to a processing plant.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 18, wherein said predicted average daily yield ready for processing is adjusted based on said time in transit.

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